

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 2, as follows:

The transport roller 3 is in contact with the reading surface 1A of the image sensor 1. When the image sensor 1 reads an original 2 (indicated by a long-dashed double-short-dashed line in the figure), the transport roller 3 transports the original 2 line by line in the original transport direction (a sub scanning direction), with the original 2 nipped between the roller 3 and the reading surface 1A. In this operation, the transport roller 3 is rotated counterclockwise in the figure by a power source (not shown). Around the transport roller 3, a cover surface 5C is formed at a predetermined distance from the surface of the transport roller 3. The distance should advisably be set similar to that between the lower guide surface 4C and the upper guide surface 5D in the transport path 12. The cover surface 5C intersects with the upper guide surface 5A at an intersection.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 17, as follows:

The transport path 12B is formed by (i) a lower guide surface 4A and a lower slant surface 4B and (ii) an upper guide surface 5A and an upper slant surface 5B, with the lower and upper surfaces facing each other at a predetermined distance (a distance narrow enough for an original to pass through without being jammed). The transport path 12B slants, generally at an angle approximately equal to that of the reading surface 1A, but partially at a different angle. More specifically, the lower slant surface 4B is formed just downstream from the image sensor 1 in the original transport direction, so as to be at an oblique, upward angle with an extended plane 6 (indicated by a long-dashed

short-dashed line) of the reading surface 1A of the image sensor 1. The lower guide surface 4A is formed downstream from the lower slant surface 4B in the original transport direction and intersects lower slant surface 4B at an intersection. The lower guide surface 4A, and a rear end of the lower slant surface 4B are formed so as to be positioned above the extended plane 6.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 11, as follows:

The upper slant surface 5B may be provided at the intersection of the cover surface 5C and the upper guide surface 5A. The upper slant surface 5B may be formed as an upward slant that is adjacent the lower slant surface 4B and that is at least partially provided between the reading surface and the intersection of the lower slant surface 4B and the lower guide surface 4A. The upper slant surface 5B may be formed to intersect the portion of the upper guide surface 5A that is substantially parallel to the lower guide surface 4A at an intersection that is adjacent the intersection of the lower slant surface 4B and the lower guide surface 4A. The upper slant surface 5B may also be formed to have a slant angle either similar to that of the lower slant surface 4B or, as shown in FIG. 1, more gradual than the same. In addition, a downward slant surface may be provided between the upper slant surface 5B and the transport roller 3. The downward slant may intersect the upper slant surface 5B at an intersection. The intersection of the downward slant and the upper slant surface 5B nearly intersects an extended plane of the lower guide surface 4A.